

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

SES-01 SMS-01 ACDA-12 FRB-03 DOTE-00 COM-02 A-02

OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 ANAE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02

USSS-00 /108 W

-----116787 301306Z /44

O P 301204Z DEC 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6635

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8699

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD; USICA FOR NEA TED CURRAN

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/30/85 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P/E

TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PGOV, ASEC, AF, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET OCCUPATION OF KABUL: SITREP NO. 13

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE MAJOR FEATURE OF THIS THIRD DAY OF THE SOVIET
OCCUPATION OF THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN THE CONTINUING MASSIVE
BUILDUP OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AROUND KABUL, AND PERHAPS IN
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OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL. MANY OF THE SOVIET UNITS
HAVE BEEN PULLED OUT OF THE CITY CENTER AND DEPLOYED IN AN
INCREASINGLY STRONG RING AROUND THE CAPITAL'S OUTSKIRTS.
AT THE SAME TIME, REGULAR MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION UNITS HAVE
ARRIVED HERE OVERLAND FROM THE USSR AND ARE EXPANDING THIS
CIRCLE OF POWER. HEAVY TRUCKS WITH TOWED ARTILLERY, T-72S,
MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS OF THE "STALIN ORGAN" TYPE, POSSIBLY

A FROG MISSILE SYSTEM, AND COUNTLESS OTHER APCs AND SUPPORT VEHICLES HAVE BEEN SEEN POURING INTO THE AREA FROM THE NORTH. ONE QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF MOST OBSERVERS IS WHAT THIS VERY IMPRESSIVE FORCE IS SUPPOSED TO FIGHT?

3. ONE ANSWER MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY A REPORT WE HEARD THIS MORNING. ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN RETURNING FROM THE LOGAR VALLEY WOUTHEAST OF KABUL, SOME OF THE SOVIET TROOPS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THAT VALLEY. THE AFGHAN ARMY UNITS WHO HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE KHALQIS, HOWEVER, HAVE REPORTEDLY TURNED AGAINST THE SOVIET TROOPS, AND FIGHTING IS NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND AFGHAN UNITS. UNCONFIRMED RUMORS CONTEND THAT SIMILAR RESISTANCE IS BUILDING IN VARIOUS REGIONS OUTSIDE KABUL, BUT WE HAVE AS YET NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS. THE IMMENSE SIZE AND POWER OF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT THESE FORCES ARE HERE FOR MORE THAN INTIMIDATION, AND THAT THEY MAY, IN FACT, TAKE THE FIELD IN AN ATTEMPT TO QUASH THE ANTI-COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

4. TWO MIG-21S HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENTLY FLYING FIGURE EIGHTS OVER THE CITY TODAY, BUT WE HAVE NO REPORTS THAT THEY FIRED ON ANY TARGETS.

5. ONE ADDITIONAL CABINET APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE NOTED. ABDUL WAKIL HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF FINANCE. WAKIL HELD A HIGH CONFIDENTIAL

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POST IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RIGHT AFTER THE GREAT SAUR REVOLUTION, BUT WAS "EXILED" TO AN AMBASSADORSHIP (UK) AT THE SAME TIME AS BABRAK, ET AL. OUR RECOLLECTION OF WAKIL'S TALENTS IS THAT THEY ARE FAIRLY LIMITED. THE IMPORTANT THING, HOWEVER, IS THAT HIS PARCHAMIST CREDENTIALS ARE PROBABLY SPOTLESS.

6. UNCONFIRMED RUMORS MAKING THE ROUNDS REGARDING LEADERSHIP CASUALTIES DURING THE SOVIET TAKEOVER ASSERT THAT DR. SHAH WALI (FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER), BAREQ-SHAFAYEE(FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORT), GHORBANDI (COMMERCE), AND MISAQ (FINANCE) WERE KILLED. A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT THERE WERE A TOTAL OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY SOVIET CASUALTIES IN THE FIGHTING: USING THE STANDARD RATIO OF TEN WOUNDED TO ONE DEATH, THIS FIGURE WOULD RESULT IN ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE DEAD SOVIETS AND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE WOUNDED.

7. A RADIO AFGHANISTAN BROADCAST THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 30 ANNOUNCED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TABAYEV HAD MET WITH BABRAK EARLIER THAT DAY AND HAD GIVEN HIM A MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV. SOME LISTENERS CLAIM THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE MESSAGE CONTAINED SOVIET "RECOGNITION" OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS

MAY POSSIBLY BE THE BREZHNEV MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION REPORTED IN FBIS TRENDS (28 DECEMBER 79 USSR-AFGHANISTAN) WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE A FORMAL RECOGNITION STATEMENT. AT ANY RATE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SUGGESTS THE REGIME IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT BABRAK IS, IN FACT, IN KABUL CONDUCTING BUSINESS. HE STILL HAS NOT MADE ANY PUBLIC APPEARANCE, HOWEVER.

8. FINALLY, USICA'S AMERICAN CENTER SUFFERED A PROPERTY LOSS THE DAY AFTER THE SOVIET COUP, AS SOME SOVIET ARMORED TROOPS STATIONED OPPOSITE THE CENTER REQUISITIONED USICA'S BICYCLE RACK IN ORDER TO CONTROL PEDESTRIAN FLOW AROUND THEIR APCS. THESE TROOPS HAVE NOW BEEN REASSIGNED, THE BICYCLE RACK HAS NOT BEEN RETURNED, AND WE ARE CONTEMPLATING SUBMITTING A VOUCHER TO THE LOCAL SOVIET ARMY COMMANDER FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPER REIMBURSEMENT.

9. UNLESS EVENTS WARRANT OTHERWISE, WE WILL FILE ONE DAILY SITREP AT OUR COB, UNTIL LIFE RETURNS TO "NORMAL" HERE. AMSTUTZ

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